# BEFORE THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

ELIZABETH LITOWSKY a.k.a. LISA LITOWSKY 260 Live Oak Street Auburn, CA 95603

Registered Nurse License No. 217870 Public Health Nurse Certificate No. 16498

Respondent

Case No. 2013-91

# **DECISION AND ORDER**

The attached Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby adopted by the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This Decision shall become effective on **December 15, 2012.** 

IT IS SO ORDERED December 15, 2012.

Raymond Mallel, President

Board of Registered Nursing

Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California

1	KAMALA D. HARRIS		
2	Attorney General of California DIANN SOKOLOFF		
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General ASPASIA A. PAPAVASSILIOU	·	
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 196360		
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7	E-mail: Aspasia.Papavassiliou@doj.ca.gov Attorneys for Complainant		
8	BEFORE TH	ne.	
9	BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS		
10	STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
11		1.	
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 2013-91	
13	ELIZABETH LITOWSKY a.k.a. LISA LITOWSKY		
14	260 Live Oak Street Auburn, CA 95603	STIPULATED SURRENDER OF LICENSE AND ORDER	
15	Registered Nurse License No. 217870		
16	Public Health Nurse Certificate No. 16498		
17	Respondent.		
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19	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties in this		
20	proceeding that the following matters are true:		
21	<u>PARTIES</u>		
22	1. Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of the Board of		
23	Registered Nursing. She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in		
24	this matter by Kamala D. Harris, Attorney General of the State of California, by Aspasia A.		
25	Papavassiliou, Deputy Attorney General.		
26	2. Elizabeth Litowsky, also known as Lisa Litowsky (Respondent) is representing		
27	herself in this proceeding and has chosen not to exercise her right to be represented by counsel.		
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- 3. On or about July 31, 1971, the Board of Registered Nursing issued Registered Nurse License No. 217870 to Respondent. The Registered Nurse License expired on May 31, 2011, and has not been renewed.
- 4. On or about September 17, 1971, the Board of Registered Nursing issued Public Health Nurse Certificate No. 16498 to Respondent. The Public Health Nurse Certificate expired on May 31, 2011, and has not been renewed.

# <u>JURISDICTION</u>

5. The Accusation in Case No. 2013-91 (Accusation) was filed before the Board of Registered Nursing (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on August 7, 2012. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of the Accusation is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

## ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 6. Respondent has carefully read, and understands the charges and allegations in the Accusation. Respondent also has carefully read, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order.
- 7. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel, at her own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 8. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

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#### CULPABILITY

- Respondent understands that the charges and allegations in the Accusation in Case No. 2013-91, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon her Registered Nurse License and Public Health Nurse Certificate.
- For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual basis for the charges in the Accusation and that those charges constitute cause for discipline. Respondent hereby gives up her right to contest that cause for discipline exists based on those charges.
- 11. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation she enables the Board to issue an order accepting the surrender of her Registered Nurse License and Public Health Nurse Certificate without further process.

## RESERVATION

12. The admissions made by Respondent herein are only for the purposes of this proceeding, or any other proceedings in which the Board of Registered Nursing or other professional licensing agency is involved, and shall not be admissible in any other criminal or civil proceeding.

#### **CONTINGENCY**

13. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board of Registered Nursing. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board of Registered Nursing may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and surrender, without notice to or participation by Respondent. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Surrender and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.

- 14. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 15. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is intended by the parties to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final, and exclusive embodiment of their agreement. It supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, discussions, negotiations, and commitments (written or oral). This Stipulated Surrender of License and Order may not be altered, amended, modified, supplemented, or otherwise changed except by a writing executed by an authorized representative of each of the parties.
- 16. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Order:

## ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Registered Nurse License No. 217870 and Public Health Nurse Certificate No. 16498, issued to Respondent Elizabeth Litowsky a.k.a. Lisa Litowsky, are surrendered and accepted by the Board of Registered Nursing.

- 1. The surrender of Respondent's Registered Nurse License and Public Health Nurse Certificate and the acceptance of the surrendered license and certificate by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board of Registered Nursing.
- 2. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a registered nurse and public health nurse in California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.
- 3. Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Board her pocket license(s) and, if issued, her wall certificate(s) on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.
- 4. If Respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement in the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations contained in the

Accusation in Case No. 2013-91 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.

- 5. If and when Respondent's license is reinstated, she shall pay to the Board costs associated with its investigation and enforcement pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3 in the amount of \$10,760.38. Respondent shall be permitted to pay these costs in a payment plan approved by the Board. Nothing in this provision shall be construed to prohibit the Board from reducing the amount of cost recovery upon reinstatement of the license.
- 6. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in the Accusation in Case No. 2013-91 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.
- 7. Respondent shall not apply for licensure or petition for reinstatement for two (2) years from the effective date of the Board of Registered Nursing's Decision and Order.

## **ACCEPTANCE**

I have carefully read the Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Registered Nurse License and Public Health Nurse Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Registered Nursing.

DATED: 9-19-12 lisa Livouske

ELIZABETH LITOWSKY, a.k.a. LISA LITOWSKY Respondent

## **ENDORSEMENT**

The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Registered Nursing of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Dated: September 25, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California DIANN SOKOLOFF Supervising Deputy Attorney General

ASPASIA A. PAPAVASSILIOU Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant

SF2012400990

Exhibit A

Accusation in Case No. 2013-91

- 1		
1	KAMALA D. HARRIS	
2	Attorney General of California DIANN SOKOLOFF	
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General ASPASIA A. PAPAVASSILIOU	
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 196360	
5	1515 Clay Street, 20th Floor P.O. Box 70550	
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7	Facsimile: (510) 622-2270 E-mail: Aspasia.Papavassiliou@doj.ca.gov	
8	Attorneys for Complainant	
	BEFORE THE	
9	BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS	
10	STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. 2013-91	
12	ELIZABETH LITOWSKY A C C U S A T I O N	
13	a.k.a. LISA LITOWSKY 260 Live Oak Street	
14	Auburn, CA 95603	
15	Registered Nurse License No. 217870	
16	Public Health Nurse Certificate No. 16498	
17	Respondent.	
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19	Complainant alleges:	
20	<u>PARTIES</u>	
-21	1. Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her	
22	official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of	
23	Consumer Affairs.	
24	2. On or about July 31, 1971, the Board of Registered Nursing issued Registered Nurse	
25	License Number 217870 to Elizabeth Litowsky, also known as Lisa Litowsky (Respondent). The	
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Ì	Registered Nurse License expired on May 31, 2011, and has not been renewed.	
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3. On or about September 17, 1971, the Board of Registered Nursing issued Public Health Nurse Certificate Number 16498 to Respondent. The Public Health Nurse Certificate expired on May 31, 2011, and has not been renewed.

## **JURISDICTION**

- 4. This Accusation is brought before the Board of Registered Nursing (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
- 5. Section 2750 of the Business and Professions Code (Code) provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may discipline any licensee, including a licensee holding a temporary or an inactive license, for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with section 2750) of the Nursing Practice Act.
- 6. Section 2764 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee or to render a decision imposing discipline on the license. Under section 2811(b) of the Code, the Board may renew an expired license at any time within eight years after the expiration.
- 7. Section 118, subdivision (b), of the Code also provides that the suspension, expiration, surrender, cancellation of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary action during the period within which the license may be renewed, restored, reissued or reinstated.

#### STATUTORY PROVISIONS

- 8. Section 2761, subdivision (a), of the Code provides that the board may take disciplinary action against a certified or licensed nurse for unprofessional conduct.
- 9. Section 2762, subdivision (e), of the Code provides that it is unprofessional conduct to falsify, or make grossly incorrect, grossly inconsistent, or unintelligible entries in any hospital, patient, or other record pertaining to controlled substances or dangerous drugs.

#### **COST RECOVERY PROVISION**

10. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of

the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

#### CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct: False Entries Pertaining to Controlled Substances)
(Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 2761, subd. (a) and 2762, subd. (e))

11. Respondent has subjected her registered nurse license and public health nurse certificate to discipline under Code sections 2761, subdivision (a) (Unprofessional Conduct) and 2762, subdivision (e) (False Entries Pertaining to Controlled Substances), because, from on or about January 2008, through on or about December 2008, while working as a registered nurse at San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center, Respondent regularly and repeatedly documented in the hospital record that she witnessed her colleague Martha Slinkard wasting controlled substances or dangerous drugs, when in fact, as Respondent later admitted to investigators, she did not observe Slinkard wasting the medications.

## **PRAYER**

THEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters alleged in this Accusation, and that following the hearing, the Board of Registered Nursing issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking or suspending Registered Nurse License Number 217870, issued to Elizabeth Litowsky, a.k.a. Lisa Litowsky;
- 2. Revoking or suspending Public Health Nurse Certificate Number 16498, issued to Elizabeth Litowsky, a.k.a. Lisa Litowsky;
- 3. Ordering Elizabeth Litowsky, a.k.a. Lisa Litowsky, to pay the Board of Registered Nursing the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, under Business and Professions Code section 125.3;
  - 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: Myust 7 2012

LOUISE R. BAILEY, M.ED., RN

Executive Officer

Board of Registered Nursing

Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California

Complainant

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